

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01

DLOS-03 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 033076

R 180729Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4320

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD THE INDIAN OCEAN

REF: A) CANBERRA 3203; B) CANBERRA 6505

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION I HAD OCT 17 WITH ALAN RENOUF, SECRETARY OF DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SUBJECT OF AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARDS INDIAN OCEAN CAME UP. REFTELS REVIEW ESSENTIALLY UNFORMED AND SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY ELEMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN INDIAN OCEAN POLICY, WHICH HAS RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. RENOUF SAID THAT, DURING AIR TRAVEL TO AND FROM U.S. EARLIER THIS MONTH, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AT LAST FOUND OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ALL OF BACKGROUND
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MATERIAL DFA HAD PREPARED FOR HIM ON DIEGO GARCIA.

AS A RESULT, WHITLAM'S VIEWS ON THAT SUBJECT HAVE
MODIFIED CONSIDERABLY, BUT HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS
POSITION PUBLICLY. WHAT HE WILL DO, ACCORDING TO
RENOUF, IS TO TAKE MORE OF A BACKGROUND POSITION,
FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF OTHERS LIKE PRESIDENT SUHARTO
OF INDONESIA. RENOUF AGREED WITH ME WHEN I REMARKED
THAT WHITLAM WAS WRONG IN HIS UN PRESS CONFERENCE
OCT 1 IN SAYING HE KNOWS OF "NO COUNTRY AROUND THE
INDIAN OCEAN WHICH WELCOMED" THE BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA.
IN FACT, SHAH OF IRAN AT CANBERRA PRESS CONFERENCE
SEPT 26 MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT OPPOSE
DIEGO GARCIA BASE.

3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT ADMIRAL GAYLER'S DISCUSSION
OF DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES WITH WHITLAM IN HONOLULU
SEPT 27 MAY ALSO HAVE HAD USEFUL IMPACT ON PRIME
MINISTER'S VIEW OF THIS MATTER.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: TECH, IN, AS, (WHITLAM, GOUGH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005